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Letter dated 1 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 18 May 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 20, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 May 1999.

On 20 May 1999, three (3) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (one F-4, one C-130 and one of unidentified type) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

The C-130 and the unidentified type of aircraft, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 24 May 1999, one (1) B-200 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing, at 1211 hours, at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 2022 hours of the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 25 May 1999, five (5) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (four F-16 and one of unidentified type) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The four F-16 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

The unidentified type of aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic.

On 26 May 1999, two (2) RF-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Kormakitis, Kyrenia, Karpasia and the Bay of Famagusta before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 27 May 1999, one (1) C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

Furthermore, on 28 May 1999, four (4) F-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once again, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998) in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General, announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force and the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative